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Sara Jacobs

Sara Josephine Jacobs[2] (born February 1, 1989) is an American politician who has been the U.S. representative for California's 51st congressional district since 2023, previously representing the 53rd congressional district from 2021 to 2023. Her district includes central and eastern portions of San Diego, as well as eastern suburbs such as El Cajon, La Mesa, Spring Valley, and Lemon Grove. A member of the Democratic Party, she is the youngest member of California's congressional delegation.[3] She was the caucus leadership representative for the 118th Congress, making her the youngest member of the Democratic House leadership.[4]

Early life and career

Jacobs was born in San Diego on February 1, 1989.[5][6][7] Jacobs is Jewish. Jacobs's grandfather is billionaire businessman Irwin M. Jacobs, a co-founder and former chairman of the semiconductor company Qualcomm.[8][9] She graduated from Torrey Pines High School and Columbia University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 2011 and a Master of International Affairs in international relations in 2012.[10][11][12]

After earning her master's degree, Jacobs worked for the United Nations and UNICEF. In February 2014, she began working as a contractor to the United States Department of State. She then served as a policy advisor on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.[13][14] After the election, Jacobs formed a nonprofit called San Diego for Every Child: The Coalition to End Child Poverty.[15]

Sara Jacobs

Official portrait, 2021

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 3, 2021

Preceded by Susan Davis

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

2018

Jacobs ran as a Democrat in the 2018 elections for the United States House of Representatives in California's 49th congressional district. In the blanket primary election, she finished third, behind Diane Harkey and Mike Levin.[16]

2020

In 2020, Jacobs ran in California's 53rd congressional district.[17] She finished first in the top-two primary, and defeated San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez in the November general election.[18] She became the youngest United States Representative from California when she assumed office on January 3, 2021.[19]

During her political campaigns, Jacobs has received significant funding from her grandfather.[8][9][20] According to OpenSecrets, Jacobs was the 5th most self-funded candidate in the 2020 United States elections. She financed $6,921,255 to her campaign, constituting 90.32% of total campaign contributions.[21]

2022

Following redistricting from the 2020 United States census, Jacobs ran in California's 51st congressional district. She defeated Republican Stan Caplan in the general election with around 62% of the vote.

Constituency	53rd district (2021–2023) 51st district (2023–present)
	Personal details
Born	Sara Josephine Jacobs February 1, 1989 San Diego, California, U.S.
Party	Democratic
Domestic partner	Ammar Campa-Najjar[1]
Relatives	Gary E. Jacobs (father) Irwin M. Jacobs (grandfather) Paul E. Jacobs (uncle)
Education	Columbia University (BA, MIA)
Signature	
Website	House website (http://sarajacobs.house.gov) Campaign website (http://sarajacobsforca.com)

Jacobs's voice

1:10

Jacobs on the Respect for Marriage Act.
Recorded December 8, 2022

Tenure

In 2022, Jacobs authored legislation to regulate the collection of personal reproductive health data, as in period-tracking apps.[22][23] Mazie Hirono and Ron Wyden introduced a version in the U.S. Senate.[24][25]

Along with 16 other members of Congress, Jacobs was arrested at a demonstration in support of abortion rights outside the United States Supreme Court Building on July 19, 2022.[26][27]

In 2022, Jacobs introduced a bill to rename the Andrew Jackson Post Office in Rolando after her predecessor Susan A. Davis.[28] Signed into law on December 27, 2022,[29] a ceremony to install a new plaque with Davis' name was held on July 7, 2023.[30] The Andrew Jackson signage remains on the front of the building.[31]

Committee assignments

For the 119th Congress:[32]

- Committee on Armed Services
  - Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations
  - Subcommittee on Military Personnel
- Committee on Foreign Affairs
  - Subcommittee on Africa (Ranking Member)
  - Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

Caucus memberships

- Congressional Equality Caucus (Vice Chair)[33]
- Black Maternal Health Caucus[34]
- Congressional Caucus for the Equal Rights Amendment[35]
- New Democrat Coalition[36]
- Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus[37]
- Congressional Progressive Caucus[38]
- Medicare for All Caucus[39][40]

Political positions

Jacobs has been described as center-left.[41] She voted with President Joe Biden's stated position 100% of the time in the 117th Congress, according to a *FiveThirtyEight* analysis.[42]

Environment

Jacobs calls climate change "one of the biggest threats facing humanity". She says she wants a zero-carbon, clean energy economy by 2030.[43]

Foreign policy

Shortly before President Joe Biden left office, his administration determined that the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia was committing genocide and accused the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of using chemical weapons in the Sudanese Civil War.[44] As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Africa, Jacobs supported bill S.935 (https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/935/text), which seeks to block arms exports and sales from the United States to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) until it is certified that the UAE is not providing materiel support to the RSF in Sudan.[45]

Jacobs wth other U.S. politicians at Kastellet in Copenhagen, Denmark in support of the country during the Greenland crisis, January 2026

Jacobs visited a refugee camp in Sudan in March 2024, reporting her observation of the extensive trauma endured by children in Sudan, under the conflict. As a result of this trip, she stated the US is morally obligated to take measures and stop the selling arms to the UAE which are being sold to arm the RSF militias.[46][47]

In a December 2022 *Foreign Policy* article, Jacobs criticized the United States' counterterrorism strategy in Africa, writing that good governance is needed in Africa instead of guns. She was among the first members of Congress to visit Sudanese refugees at the border.[48]

On January 15, 2025, Jacobs responded to the January ceasefire agreement by stating that "we're in desperate need to repair the damage done to international norms and the United States' credibility. We also need to ensure that all parties respect and uphold this agreement in good faith. I will keep working until all the hostages are released, a permanent ceasefire is implemented, humanitarian assistance is readily available, and Gazans have rebuilt and have self-determination" Jacobs on January ceasefire (https://sarajacobs.house.gov/news/press-releases/rep-sara-jacobs-statement-on-israel-and-hamas-deal-to-release-the-hostages-and-secure-a-ceasefire)

On April 5, 2024, Jacobs joined 39 Democrats in a call for Biden to stop the transfer of US weapons to Israel during the Gaza war. Jacobs signed a letter with Nancy Pelosi and including Representatives Cori Bush, Barbara Lee, Jamaal Bowman, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.[49] Two weeks later, she voted in favor of a $26 billion bill that provided both humanitarian aid to Gaza and military aid to Israel.[50] She responded to criticism about signing this bill by stating: "While I'm deeply concerned about further military assistance to Israel, I couldn't in good conscience vote against this lifesaving humanitarian assistance." [51]

On November 18, 2023, Jacobs called for a ceasefire in the Gaza war and an end to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, saying "It is time for a bilateral ceasefire — to immediately release the hostages; to establish humanitarian access and allow fuel, food, water and medical care into Gaza; and to end the bombardment of millions of Palestinian civilians."[52]

In November 2023, Jacobs introduced a measure to censure Congressman Brian Mast after Mast stated that Palestinian children killed by Israel were not innocent civilians,[53][54] however the measure was withdrawn by Democrat leadership.[55]

In March 2023, Jacobs was among 56 Democrats to vote in favor of a resolution which directed President Joe Biden to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria within 180 days.[56][57]

On July 6, 2023, US President Joe Biden authorized the provision of cluster munitions to Ukraine in support of a Ukrainian counter-offensive against Russian forces in Russian-occupied southeastern Ukraine.[58] Jacobs opposed the Biden administration's decision to supply cluster munitions to Ukraine.[59]

Democratic House leadership

In 2022, Jacobs said she supported Nancy Pelosi remaining Democratic leader within the House.[60]

Tax policy

Jacobs wishes to repeal the tax cuts for the wealthy in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. She wants "to increase the highest marginal tax rate and ensure capital gains rates match that, close loopholes in our tax code, and make sure everyone, including corporations, pays their fair share".[43]

Health care

Jacobs supports Medicare for All.[43]

Jacobs called the Trump administration's response to COVID-19 "horribly mishandled". She wants to hold businesses and individuals accountable for price gouging related to personal protective equipment and health care supplies during the pandemic.[43]

On the one-year anniversary of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, Jacobs wrote an op-ed for MSNBC.com calling for passage of the My Body, My Data Act, which would create a national standard to protect reproductive and sexual health data.[61]

Families and children

Jacobs supports the Child Care is Essential Act, which aims to pay child care workers a good wage and helps pay for child care for working families.[43] Jacobs co-leads the Child Care for Every Community Act, which aims to create a federally-funded and locally-run network of child care centers.

Immigration

Jacobs supports including a provision to grant citizenship for undocumented immigrants residing in the U.S., and passing the DREAM Act. She supports increasing funding for the immigration-related court system, and reducing backlogs. She supports modernizing border security and improving transit times. She opposes the Trump administration family separation policy, and wants to end funding on privatized detention facilities. Jacobs wants the U.S. to accept at least 95,000 refugees annually and protect individuals with Temporary Protected Status.[43]

Personal life

Jacobs lives in the Kensington neighborhood of San Diego.[62] She is Jewish.[63]

With an estimated net worth of $76 million, Jacobs is one of the wealthiest members of Congress.[64]

She has been in a relationship with Ammar Campa-Najjar (a former Democratic candidate for a neighboring congressional district) since 2019.[65][66]

Electoral history

2020 United States House of Representatives elections in California[67][68]

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	Democratic	**Sara Jacobs**	**192,897**	**59.5**
	Democratic	Georgette Gómez	131,349	40.5
		Total votes	**324,246**	**100.0**
	Democratic **hold**			

2022 United States House of Representatives elections in California[69]

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	Democratic	**Sara Jacobs (Incumbent)**	**144,186**	**61.9**
	Republican	Stan Caplan	88,886	38.1
		Total votes	**233,072**	**100.0**
	Democratic **hold**			

2024 United States House of Representatives elections in California[70][71]

Primary election				
Party		**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**
	Democratic	Sara Jacobs (incumbent)	90,901	57.4
	Republican	Bill Wells	61,923	39.1
	No party preference	Stan Caplan	3,164	2.0
	No party preference	Hilaire Fuji Shioura	2,496	1.6
		Total votes	**158,484**	**100.0**
General election				
	Democratic	**Sara Jacobs (incumbent)**	**198,835**	**60.7**
	Republican	Bill Wells	128,749	39.3
		Total votes	**327,584**	**100.0**
	Democratic **hold**			

See also

- List of Jewish members of the United States Congress
- Women in the United States House of Representatives

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External links

- Representative Sara Jacobs (https://sarajacobs.house.gov) official U.S. House website
- Sara Jacobs for Congress (https://sarajacobsforca.com/) campaign website
- Appearances (https://www.c-span.org/person/?128685) on C-SPAN
- Biography (http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=J000305) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Financial information (federal office) (https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H8CA49074) at the Federal Election Commission
- Legislation sponsored (https://www.congress.gov/member/sara-jacobs/J000305) at the Library of Congress
- Profile (https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/179414) at Vote Smart

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